



EV371746995US

NITTA/004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Melanie D. Bissett  
Group : 1711  
Applicants : Naoyuki Tani et al.  
Application No. : 09/786,001 Confirmation No. : 6419  
Filing Date : June 4, 2001  
For : WORKPIECE RETAINER AND METHOD FOR  
ATTACHING/DETACHING WORKPIECE BY  
USING THE SAME

New York, New York  
May 21, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment  
Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the January 21, 2004 Office Action in the above-identified application. Applicants have petitioned concurrently herewith to extend the time for response to this action for one month, to May 21, 2004, and have paid the required extension-of-time fee [37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and § 1.17(a)(1)].

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the **listing of claims** which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.

Express Mail Label  
No. EV371746995US